



TAKING CARE UPDATE²²



Designated Persons Training

- New dates for 2013, see inside for details

Parents Awareness Week...

- Reports from 1st Limavady & Richhill

Special Focus

- Understanding Social Media

EDITORS' WELCOME

(22ND EDITION)

In recent days, social media has been to the fore in newspapers and news bulletins. Whilst a lot of coverage has been for the wrong reasons, it does however highlight the way communication has dramatically changed today. Recently a Minister spoke to a group of children. He asked them what they would use to find their way to a certain location. Instantly a child replied a "sat nav." The next child answered 'google maps' – how times have changed!

Whether it be to shop online, skype family or friends across the globe, download music or indeed find directions, this is the communication of our day. The Church must embrace this change and guide our children/ young people in the safe use of social media – indeed our leaders and parents must be informed and aware of current guidelines. The Special Focus section in this edition promotes a new Social Media presentation, providing information and understanding of Facebook, Twitter, and other social media. Contact the office to arrange a presentation to a group in your church.

Finally, training is in full swing and there has been a great response to Parents Awareness week – included are two reports from churches sharing their approach to this initiative.

See you soon :)

Take Care,

Geoff

Taking Care Coordinator



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PCI TAKING CARE

Parents Awareness week 1st Limavady



Although Taking Care had asked if each congregation would hold a Parent's Awareness Week in December 2012 we at 1st Limavady felt that this was rather a busy time and decided that we would postpone ours until our Sunday School Family Service in January 2013. This turned out to be very successful as we were able to interact with a larger number of parents. As Designated Person I introduced myself to the congregation and spoke about Taking Care using the very informative powerpoint presentation provided by Taking Care on their website. After that I spoke briefly about

my role in the church as Designated Person informing them about my 5 key responsibilities as described in the guidelines. Next I touched briefly and hopefully sensitively on the types of Child Protection issues which need to be reported i.e all forms of child abuse, substance abuse, domestic abuse, bullying and self-harm and suicide. Finally I quickly explained what I do with the information as Designated Person and finished with reminding the congregation not to hesitate in reporting any Child Protection concern to any organisation leader or myself. At the end of the service we felt that the congregation had been made much more aware of Taking Care and learned the importance of Child Protection.

Joanne Guy

Designated Person of 1st Limavady
Prebyterian

Richhill Church



Husband and wife team **Owen and Evelyn Milligan** (Richhill Church) led in their Parents Awareness Sunday on 9th December 2012. Both Owen and Evelyn have significant roles in the congregation (Evelyn being the Designated Person and Owen the member of Session). It was evident that the care of children and leaders is uppermost in their minds – not just their physical care but their spiritual wellbeing as both continually pray for God's guidance and protection on all the youth work. Evelyn talked on her role as Designated Person and how she ensures the Church follows

an appointment of leaders process, leaders attend Taking Care training and her availability to help with advice and guidance including updates as and when legislation changes. Owen highlighted the role of Kirk Session who has ultimate responsibility for the Taking Care programme and he assured parents that any concerns raised would be dealt with in an open and transparent way. He also acknowledged the commitment of leaders who work tirelessly with children and young people and encouraged others to consider becoming involved in this vital ministry. To this couple's delight, following their presentation, a number of people volunteered to work with the youth and will now follow the appointment process. All in all a great blessing and encouragement for both Taking Care and Richhill Church but more importantly for God and the building of His Kingdom.



Ballycairn Designated Person, Minister & TC Trainer



Refresher Training at Arklow



Refresher training at St James's Ballymoney

Trainer's Training

Fifteen Taking Care trainers' attended an evening at Wellington Church on Thursday 15th November 2012. After opening devotions, Lachlan Webster delivered a talk on Social Media, taking the trainers on a step by step tour of Facebook and other social networking sites.

Other topics included AccessNI, a review of training and a possible new approach around Trainer's contract and accreditation. Two new trainers – Elaine Craig and

Patricia Gowdy – joined the training team. However, just a few days later the Taking Care Office regretfully said farewell to Anna McCallion who indicated she wished to retire as a voluntary trainer. Anna has been with the Taking Care training programme from the beginning and will be missed. We want to say a big thank you to Anna for her commitment, dedication, and support to the work of Taking Care and wish her God's richest blessings for the future.

DESIGNATED PERSONS TRAINING - 2013

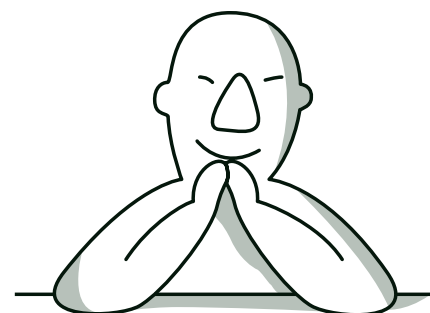
The training will focus on the role of the Designated Person and is primarily for newly appointed DPs, or those who haven't been to DP training in the past 4 years. However any DP is welcome to attend.

- Thursday 21st February 2013 at Trinity Presbyterian, Letterkenny
- Wednesday 6th March 2013 at 1st Omagh Presbyterian
- Tuesday 12th March 2013 at Wellington Presbyterian, Ballymena
- Wednesday 13th March 2013 at 1st Monaghan Presbyterian

- Thursday 14th March 2013 at Saintfield Road Presbyterian
- Tuesday 19th March 2013 at 1st Limavady Presbyterian
- Thursday 21st March 2013 at Richhill Presbyterian, Armagh
- Tuesday 26th March 2013 at Adelaide Road Presbyterian, Dublin

N.B. All training sessions will start at 7.30pm and finish at approx. 9.30pm

If you would like to attend one of these events, please register with Amanda by email akyle@pcinet.org phone +44(0)28 90417 290.



Points of Prayer

Pray for on-going training schedule, giving thanks for the voluntary trainers who deliver training.

Pray for the two new trainers as they settle into the work and take their first solo training session.

Pray for all who use Social Media that they will use it wisely, be safe and secure, honouring God in comments posted, photographs uploaded and internet sites visited.

Understanding Facebook, Twitter & other Social Media

Practical Steps for leaders and parents to protect & support healthy relations in the online world.

Understanding Facebook, Twitter and other Social Media



How many children claim they have met someone whom they first met online?

- a) 1 in 10
- b) 1 in 6
- c) 1 in 4 ✓



Cyber-bullying

- Bullying using technology.
- 24/7 since it can take place using social networking, mobiles or any form of technology.
- You don't necessarily know who the bully is.
- It can involve lots of people who have viewed a profile.
- Upsetting as it is in person.
- It's your duty to report.

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Sexting

- Be careful of images you give to other people.
- Once you pass a picture of yourself, you have lost control of it.
- Photos which are a 'bit of fun' can end up in the wrong hands.
- Think..... would you be happy to pass a photo around the dinner table, your grandparents, your teacher, or future employer?
- It's less easy to live with the consequences – it can be online for ever.

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How should we respond?

- As a church
- As leaders, helpers, workers, volunteers
- As full-time youth workers
- As full-time family workers
- As parents/carers
- As an individual

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To arrange a presentation for your group or congregation please contact Amanda at the Taking Care Office for more details and available dates.

Email akyle@pcinet.org or phone +44(0)28 90417 290